#### **REMARKS**

Claims 16-37 remain in this application. Claims 16, 17, 19, 26, 27, 28, 32, and 33 have been amended. Claims 36 and 37 have been added. No claims have been cancelled. The Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

#### 35 U.S.C. §112 Rejection

The Examiner has rejected claims 16-35 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. In particular, the Examiner has stated that the terms "unsupported component" and "active" are confusing.

The Applicants respectfully submit that the present claims are definite under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Independent claims 16, 26, and 32, are presently pending in this case.

Claim 16, as amended, recites a method comprising "applying a photoresist layer to a first substrate to protect a portion having a first circuit; etching a portion of the first substrate that is not protected by the photoresist layer; bonding the first substrate to a second substrate after said etching; and thinning the first substrate to remove a bevel portion of the first substrate".

Accordingly, claim 16 does not recite the terms "active" or "unsupported". For at least this reason, claim 16, as well as dependent claims 17-25, are believed to be allowable. Dependent claim 36 is also believed to be allowable for reasons similar to those discussed below for claim 26.

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Claim 26, as amended, recites a method comprising "removing a first portion of a first substrate that is not an active component; bonding the active component of the first substrate to a second substrate; and thinning the first substrate to remove an unsupported component of the first substrate".

Applicants respectfully submit that claim 26 is definite, since the words "active" and "unsupported component" are sufficiently clear and precise to render the claim definite.

The term "active" is a term that is well known in the art of manufacturing integrated circuits. Attached herewith as Appendix A is four pages from the SEMATECH Official Dictionary, Revision 5.0, including definitions for "active area" and "active devices". Active area is defined as the region of thin oxide on a die or wafer in which transistors and other circuits reside. Active devices are defined as semiconductor devices that have active function, such as integrated circuits and transistors. Accordingly, an "active" portion of a substrate is well known in the arts to refer to a portion of the substrate that includes transistors or other integrated circuitry.

The term "unsupported component" is sufficiently clearly and precisely defined in the patent application. Paragraph [0003] of the patent application states that "The wafer substrate that is to be grinded includes a bevel component that is unsupported during the grinding step of the process." One example of an unsupported component is shown in Figure 1 of the patent application. In paragraph [0014] of the patent application it is discussed that, "The bevel of the top wafer is an area that is unsupported by the bottom wafer. Thus, as the grinder asserts pressure at the top wafer, portions of the bevel beyond the unsupported area may be chipped away, resulting in the possibility of relatively large portions of the top wafer being delaminated." Another example of an unsupported component is shown in Figure 3 of the patent application as bevel component

410. Figure 6 of the patent application shows a grinding wheel 610 applied to the thinned wafer 320, which is bonded to wafer 530. As discussed in paragraph [0020], "According to one embodiment, the unsupported bevel portion 430 of wafer 320 is ground off during the thinning process. Thus, chipping or damage that may have occurred on the unsupported bevel portion 430 is removed without effecting the remaining portion of wafer 320."

Additionally, plain and ordinary meaning is intended for the term "support". By way of example, Appendix B includes three pages from Webster's II New College Dictionary including a definition of "support". Support is defined as to carry the weight of, especially from below. Appendix C includes 2 pages including a definition of "support" from Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary online at http://www.m-w.com/. Support is defined as to hold up or serve as a foundation or prop for. Other definitions of support may also be suitable.

For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 26 is definite and complies with the requirements of 35 USC Section 112, Second Paragraph. Accordingly, claim 26, and its dependent claims, are believed to be allowable.

Claim 32, as amended, recites a method comprising "forming a layer over a first circuit of a first substrate; removing a portion of the first substrate that is not under the layer; removing the layer; bonding the first circuit of the first substrate to a second substrate having a second circuit after said removing the layer; and thinning the first substrate to remove a portion that is not supported by the second substrate".

Accordingly, claim 32 does not recite the terms "active" or "unsupported". For at least this reason, claim 32, as well as dependent claims 33-35, are believed to be allowable. Dependent claim 37 is also believed to be allowable for reasons similar to those discussed above for claim 26.

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#### Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that all claims now pending patentably define the subject invention over the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request that the rejections be withdrawn and the claims be allowed at the earliest possible date.

#### Request For Telephone Interview

The Examiner is invited to call Brent E. Vecchia at (303) 740-1980 if there remains any issue with allowance of the case.

#### Request For An Extension Of Time

The Applicants respectfully petition for an extension of time to respond to the outstanding Office Action pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) should one be necessary. Please charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2666 to cover the necessary fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17 for such an extension.

#### Charge Our Deposit Account

Please charge any shortage to our Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,
BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

Date: 1/27/06

Brent E. Vecchia Reg. No. 48,011

12400 Wilshire Boulevard Seventh Floor Los Angeles, California 90025-1030 (303) 740-1980

Attorney Docket No. 42P17268 Application No. 10/811,758

## Appendix A

Definition of "active area" and "active areas" from SEMATECH Official Dictionary, Revision 5.0

SEMATECH Official Dictionary Revision 5.0

Technology Transfer 91010441C-STD

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## SEMATECH Official Dictionary, rev. 5.0 Technology Transfer # 91010441C-STD

Technology Transfer # 91010441C-STD SEMATECH August 31, 1995

Abstract:

This dictionary defines terms in the semiconductor industry. It is intended to provide a common SEMATECH language that improves communication within SEMATECH and throughout the SEMATECH community by providing and promoting a standard terminology. Some of the terms in this dictionary are specific to SEMATECH. This version (revision 5.0) also includes terminology from other industry organizations, namely the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME), the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM), the Electronic Industries Association, the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, (IEEE), and Semiconductor Equipment and Materials International (SEMI). Sources are

indicated at the end of each definition.

Keywords:

Standards

Authors:

Sheila Endres, Jackie Marsh

Approvals:

Jackie Marsh, SEMATECH Standards Coordinator

Bill Swiss, Director, Critical Materials, Information, and Planning Sheila Endres, Technical Information Transfer Team Leader

- acetic acid (CH<sub>3</sub>COOH) n: a sour, colorless, liquid compound that is a component of vinegar. [SEMATECH]
- acetone ( $[CH_3]_2CO$ ) n: a colorless, volatile, and extremely flammable liquid used as a solvent and as a reagent. [SEMATECH]
- AC fine test dust n: a graded, naturally occurring dust frequently used as a polydisperse test aerosol. It is composed of 68% SiO<sub>2</sub>, 16% Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>, and 4.6% Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>. The fine grade has 39% of its mass in particles less than 5  $\mu$ m in size and 73% in particles less than 20  $\mu$ m in size. [SEMATECH]
- acid n1: a substance that dissociates in water to liberate hydrogen or hydronium ions, donates a proton, accepts an unshared pair of electrons, or reacts with a base to form a salt. An acid has a pH of less than 7 and turns litmus paper red. [SEMATECH] 2: a corrosive material with the chemical reaction characteristic of an electron acceptor. [SEMI S4-92]
- acidosis n: an abnormal increase in hydrogen-ion concentration in the body caused by an accumulation of an acid or loss of a base; may be respiratory, metabolic, or renal in nature. [SEMATECH]
- acid tank n: a chemically inactive receptacle containing acid for etching, cleaning, or stripping wafers. [SEMATECH]
- ACK n: in message transfer, "Correct Reception" handshake code. NOTE—The name (derived from ACKnowledged) of one of the four standard handshake codes used in block transfer protocol. The code ACK (00000110) corresponds to the ASCII code that has the same pattern. [SEMI E4-87]
- across-the-seat test n: a test for leakage across the internal seal of a test component (for example, from one side of the valve seat to the other). [SEMATECH]
- active area n: the region of thin oxide on a die or wafer in which transistors and other circuits reside. [SEMATECH]
- active devices n: semiconductor devices that have active function, such as integrated circuits and transistors. [SEMI G35-87] Contrast passive devices.
- active equipment n: equipment that loads a cassette onto the cassette stage of another piece of equipment, or unloads a cassette from the cassette stage of another piece of equipment. [SEMI E23-91] Contrast passive equipment.
- active minienvironment n: a minienvironment that creates and maintains a controlled condition. [SEMI E44-95]
- active transfer partner n: in automated material movement, a transfer partner that physically participates in the micro-level portion of a transfer, either by moving the transfer object or by moving impediments within the transfer envelope, such as doors or clamps. NOTE—This term refers to the micro-level transfer phase only, and not to any setup activities prior to the transfer. For example, a port door may be opened during setup phase by passive partner. [Adapted from SEMI E32-94] Contrast with passive transfer partner.
- actual equipment production n: actual number of product wafers processed during productive time (including equipment loading and unloading). [SEMATECH] Also see productive time.

# Appendix B

Definition of "support" from Webster's II New College Dictionary

# Webster's II

New College Dictionary



Houghton Mifflin Company

Boston • New York

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#### supplicant o surcharge

that < lat. suppliers. — see supplicate.] Expressing supplication: asserting c.—n. A supplicate. — supplicate. — supplicate. — supplicates. — set. That supplicates < q. supplicates (supplicate pilgitus). Supplicates < q. supplicates (supplicate pilgitus). Supplicates < q. supplicates < q. supplicates (supplicate pilgitus). Supplicates < q. supplicates to kneed down: sub, down + pilcate, to fold up.] — vt. 1. To bes for humbly or earnessly, as by praying, 2. To make a humble endersor request: suc. — supplicate. — vi. To make a humble and earness request: suc. — supplicate. — vi. To make a humble and earness request: suc. — supplies. [ME supplied < OR soundeer < lat. supplied: sub-, from below + piles, to file!—vt. 1. To make synthable for use: resounce supplied new uniforms> 2. To file sub-ficiently: surpsided the throops with new uniforms> 3. To fill sub-ficiently: surpsided the throops with new uniforms> 3. To fill sub-ficiently: surpsided another priests pulpins—vi. To fill; position as a substitute. — n. pl. -pilea. 1. The set of supplying 2. Something supplied 3. An emornt available or sufficient of a given the : stock 4 often supplies. Materials of provisions stored and dispensed when needed 5. The amount of a commodity available for meeting a demand or for purchase at a given price. A often supplies another pater. — sup-piler n. supplies economics. — sup-pily-side economics n. (sing, in number). A theory holding that tax citt, superially for the wealthiest people and businesses, will stimulate expiral investments, as in new plants and equipment, spur enues genetated during the resultant people and businesses, will stimulate expiral investments, as in new plants and equipment, spur enues genetated during the resultant people and businesses, will stimulate expiral investments, as in new plants and equipment, spur enues genetated during the resultant people and businesses, will supply so the supplier in the supplier of the supplier of the piles of the piles of the supplier of the supplier of the supplier of

enues generated during the resultant period of increased economic activity.

sup-port (12-port), port) vi. port-ed, -purt-ing, -ports. [ME supporter < Cff. supporter < Lat supporters, to carry: sub-inom below + portare, to carry: Jl. To carry the weight of, esp. from below.

2. To maintain in position so as to heep from falling arbing, as slipping.

3. To be able to bear : withfirm. 4. To keep from hilling or picture.

3. To be able to bear : withfirm. 4. To keep from hilling or necessities < support a single landly > 6. To formish curvoborsting erroidence for < support a winness's testimony > 7. To sid the cause of by approving layoring or advocating < support a political candidate > 6. To endure : tolerate. 9. a. To set (a part or role). b. To set in a sectionary or subordinant role to [a leading performer). — n. 1. The set of supporting or the state of being supported. 2. One that supports. 3. A. means of maintainance or subsistence. — sup-port's able odj.

sup-port's ably adv.

sup-port's poly n. A. grow of people, sometimes led by a therepiral who provide each other moral support information, and advice on problems relating to some shared characteristic or experience <a support systems of a network of personal or providesimal consecue available to a person or organization or practical or moral support when needed.

sup-pose (22-pose) v. — posed, — poseing, — posee. [ME supposen

supports system it. A service to personal to proceed an apport available to a person of organization for practical or moral support when needed.

sup-pose (2-702') v. posed, posing, posess. [ME supposed experiment of the state of the supposed experiment of the state of the stat

a cony cavity coner them in the mount suppresses (sa-près') vi. -presseed, -presseed. [ME suppresses < Lat. supparases: sub., down + premere, to press.] I. To pur an end to fortibly: quasa. 2. To cortail or prohibit the activities of <suppress political opposition> 3. a. To keep from being revealed,

published, or circulated <suppress a news story > h. It sections awareness. 4. To hold back (e.g., an impulsed reduces the incidence or severity of (e.g., a hemoir press) for, sup-press for (press or) n. — sup-press for (press or) n. — sup-press sup-press for (press or) n. — sup-press sup-press sup-press sup-press sup-press sup-press sup-press sup-press sor (so-press or) n. 1. A gene that complete phenotypic expression of a mutant gene. 2. The gaids and plate in a peutode.

Sup-press sup-pre

pus (an abscess that suppurated)
sup-pu-ra-tion (sup'ys-ri'sbra) n. 1. Purmation's
pus. 2. Pus. — sup' pus ra' tive add;
suppus—pus! [las < mpra above, beyond, entirel's suppus—pus! [las < mpra above, beyond, entirel's on pol (suppurated) > 2. Greater than : unascendid;
ulas) 3. harlier than < mprolapsarian>
su-pra-glor-tal (sco' pra-glot') add; 11. Reing above
tha glottis 2. Designating a phone or phoneme produced
organs amenior to the glottis.
cu-pra-slap-sur-i-on-(sco' un-lip-sir's-m) n. (said)
eu-pra-slap-sur-i-on-(sco' un-lip-sir's-m) n. (said)

organs anterior to the glottis.

6u-pra-lap-sur-l-cu-(aco'pra-lap-sir'@an) n.(said fur-pra-lap-sur-l-cu-(aco'pra-lap-sir'@an) n.(said fur-pra-lap-sur-l-cu-(aco'pra-lap-sur-l-cu

the eye.

su-prace-nal (soo pro-te'ne) adj. Located in the part 2. An adrenal gland.

su-prace-nal gland n. An adrenal gland.

su-prace-nal gland n. An adrenal gland.

su-pra-scape-nelar (soo pro-skip yo-in) add. Then the scampla.

su premon ciat (sob-prem's sist) a. One believe

outpreme a chart (sco-preme sense) at the mean and group is or should be supreme.

group is or should be supreme.

an -preme a-cy (sob preme soc) n. pl. cies. 1:714

of heing supreme 2. Supreme power or sutherity.

outpreme (sob-preme) add, [Lat. supremus, supreme supperment of supreme society). Highest in power, authority, or real to supreme supreme degree. Similicance, chimseless in importance, degree.

Greatest in importance, degree, significance, chip ment 3. Ultimate : final <the sources sattifice.

ment 3. Utumste: that the supreme samifice adv. — su-preme ress in.
Supreme Being n. Coo la.
Supreme Court n. 1. The highest federal point
States consisting of nine justices and having jurisdicts
courts in the nation. 2. supreme court. The highest
LLS. states.

Cours in the nation. 2 supreme cours. The highs use cours in the nation. 2 supreme cours. The highs use consisting of two houses one of which reputement is lation and the other, the constituent republication and the other, the constituent republication in the course of the constituent republication and in course of the constituent republication of the command of t

strehased (súr/hisr') adi, 1. Having a surhasi il strehased (súr/hisr') adi, 1. Having a surhasi il surh with a rise less than half its span. Sur-cease (súr/sis', sar-sés') [ME surrasea < Oh-huin < Lat. superaddin.—see surraseDs.] — vi il ceaseing—cease-ea. To bring or come to an and illustration; and

sation: end.
sur-charge (sur/chāri') n. ]< ME sur-chargen, is of sur-charger: sur-, excessively + chargier to charge.
An additional sum added to the usual charge. 22/102
An additional sum additional excessive burden when unlawful. 3. An additional excessive burden is presented on a postnew value or denomination overprinted on a postb. The strup to which a new value has been applied
of surcharging. — vt.—charged,—charg-ing.

T CATE Binther & per e be itie frpier o.por o toe opere, for

## Appendix C

Definition of "support" from Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary







### Who is this Actress?

Kirsten Dunst
 Jessica Biel
 Lindsay Lohan
 Answer & get a FREE\* Pink RAZR Phone! PinkRAZR4FREE

tionary

PREMIUM SERVICES

M-WCollegiate.com M-WUnabridged.com Britannica.com Multi-User Licenses

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WORD OF THE DAY 4
WORD CAMES 4
WORD FOR THE WISE 4
ONLINE STORE 4
HELP 4



Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary

Thesaurus

Merriam-Webste

Dictionary

○ Thesaurus

#### support

11 entries found for support. The first 10 are listed below. To select an entry, click on it. For more results, click here.

support[1, transitive verb]
support[2, noun]
life-support
life support
life-support system
price support

or more results, <u>click he</u> . Browse by letter ABCDEFGHI. NOPQRSTUY

Browse words no support



Main Entry: 1sup port 49

Pronunciation: s&-'pOrt, -'port

Function: transitive verb

Etymology: Middle English, from Middle French supporter, from Late Latin supportare, from Latin, to carry, from sub-+ portare to carry — more at FARE

1: to endure bravely or quietly: BEAR

2 a (1): to promote the interests or cause of (2): to uphold or defend as valid or right; ADVOCATE (3): to argue or vote for b (1): ASSIST, HELP (2): to act with (a star actor) (3): to bid in bridge so as to show support for c: to provide with substantiation: CORROBORATE < support an alibi> 3 a: to pay the costs of; MAINTAIN b: to provide a basis for the existence or subsistence of < the island could probably support three -- A. B. C. Whipple>

4 a: to hold up or serve as a foundation or prop for b: to maintain (a price) at a desired level by purchases or loans; also: to maintain the price of by purchases or loans

5: to keep from fainting, yielding, or losing courage: COMFORT

6: to keep (something) going

- sup port ability ♠ /s&-"por-t&-'bi-l&-tE, -"por-/
noun

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1

- sup-port-ive ) /- 'por-te-bel, - 'por-/ adjective
- sup-port-ive ) /- 'por-tiv, - 'por-/ adjective
- sup-port-ive-ness ) /-nes/ noun
synonyms SUPPORT, UPHOLD, ADVOCATE, BACK,
CHAMPION mean to favor actively one that meets
opposition. SUPPORT is least explicit about the nature of the
assistance given <supports waterfront development>.
UPHOLD implies extended support given to something
attacked <upheld the legitimacy of the military action>.
ADVOCATE stresses urging or pleading <advocated prison
reform>. BACK suggests supporting by lending assistance to
one failing or falling <refusing to back the call for
sanctions>. CHAMPION suggests publicly defending one
unjustly attacked or too weak to advocate his or her own
cause <championed the rights of children>.

For More Information on "support" go to Britannica.com. Get the <u>Top 10 Search Results for "support"</u>

Bachelor's degree in ...

I want a

# Criminal Justice Administration Submit I want a Master's degree in ... Business Administration Submit

Pronunciation Symbols

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